

In this week's Kukini



■ Colonel Torres, local military and civic leaders say goodbye to an old friend and ally **A3**

News Notes

No-notice EME inspection — Hickam officials will hold a one-day, no-notice EME inspection sometime between next Monday and next Friday (May 5-9). Be advised that this inspection may temporarily impact some base services for the duration of the exercise.

Airman's Attic — Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday is All Enlisted Ranks Days. Please do not drop hazmat materials off at the Attic including paint and A/C units. Also, the Attic does not allow children under the age of 10 on volunteer nights unless they are under the age of two and are secured in a stroller in plain sight of their parents. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Johnson at 448-4322.

May Fitness Month Softball Challenge — Hosted by the Hickam Fitness Center, this free event on May 19-22 is open to all active duty/Reserve units stationed at Hickam. Sign up through your unit fitness and sports advisory representative. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Heather Beall at 448-4639/4640.

Hickam Officers' Spouses Club May Social — The HOSC May Social event will feature election night and an end-of-year celebration, Tuesday, May 20, 6 p.m., on the Officers Club lanai. Dinner menu includes roast beef carving station, baked potato bar, fresh vegetables with spinach dip, canapes and a chocolate fountain, with wine and soft drinks available for purchase. For reservations, call Susan Burks at 423-0789 (names ending in A-L) or Stephanie Price at 638-2418 (M-Z). Reservations or cancellations must be made by noon, Friday, May 16.

Hawaii/history enthusiasts — Enjoy a brown bag lunch-time event at the Hickam Community Housing Community Center on Wednesday, May 14, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Take part in an interesting and educational presentation on historic preservation here in Hawaii, and specifically at Hickam AFB and Navy Base Pearl Harbor. Sponsored by Hickam's Federal Women's Program. Reserve your spot no later than noon, Tuesday, May 13. For more information, call 449-8117 or 449-3186.

Services B2
Crossword B3
Sudoku B3
Movies B4
Hickam History B4
Classifieds B5-8

Hickam, Pearl senior leaders hold joint-basing 'jump-start' meeting

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Acknowledging a challenging road ahead, the senior leaders of both installations held a Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jump-Start Meeting at Hickam Memorial Theater on Tuesday.

Welcoming the crowd of more than 100 military and civilian members of both bases, event emcee Glen B. Bailey, 15th Airlift Wing Plans and Programs Support Agreements chief, introduced Col. JJ Torres, 15 AW commander, who opened the hour-long meeting by reminding the attendees — many of whom have and will continue to chart Pearl Harbor and Hickam's joint-base future — of the importance of their efforts.

"The joint-basing decisions we make will set the stage for how Pacific warfighters do their business," he said. "We have one chance to do this — after that, it's written."

Pointing out that "no one was hired specifically to handle joint-basing issues and decisions," the colonel noted that, at the same time many Team Hickam members are busy with this task over the next year, they also face an additional challenge.

"Beyond the decisions we have to make and submit to the Office of the Secretary of Defense by next summer, we also have an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for Feb. '09," he said. "So the pressure's on and fail-

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Photo by Jeff Nicolay

Ben Borth, 15th Mission Support Group deputy commander, goes over key issues facing Pearl Harbor-Hickam joint-basing work groups over the next year.

HCH breaks ground on Phase II project

By Jeff Nicolay
Hickam Kukini editor

Col. JJ Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, got to live every little boy's dream on Tuesday when he donned a hard hat, hopped into a massive excavator, put it into gear and then proceeded to demolish a vacant Hickam home as part of the Hickam Privatized Housing Phase II ground-breaking ceremony at Onizuka Village.

For Ryan Mielke, Hickam Community Housing deputy asset manager, however, the significance of the day wasn't about tearing things down. Instead, it was about providing better housing for Team Hickam members.

"Today was a demonstration that the Air Force and Hickam Community Housing are striding aggressively to better the quality of life for our Airmen and their families," he said. "The new homes that will replace the homes being



(Left) Col. JJ Torres (center), 15th Airlift Wing commander, assisted by other wing personnel and Hickam Community Housing/Actus Lend-Lease officials, helps break ground on Hickam Privatized Housing Phase II, Tuesday in Onizuka Village. (Right) Colonel Torres takes a break from his day to ... well, break some things.

demolished will be 20 to 40 percent larger and much more energy efficient."

Mr. Mielke added that Tuesday's ceremony marked the beginning of major new home construction of sustainable communities — including historic home rehabilitation

and restoration on base — that will add 1,118 new homes to the 1,356 homes already privatized by the Air Force at Hickam.

"This was more than a typical construction groundbreaking ceremony," he said. "This project begins one of the



Photos by Vanessa Perez

nation's largest — if not the largest — contiguous-community, historic-homes rehabilitation projects."

And while his experience during the ceremony may not have pumped up his blood pressure to the same degree as that of Colonel Torres, it was

a satisfying one never the less for an entirely different — and more enduring — reason.

"Our work will strengthen and preserve the heritage of our historic homes while ensuring high quality homes are here for generations of Air Force families," he said.

'Pearl' gets polished



Photo by Staff Sgt. Erin Smith

Tech. Sgt. Neil Cochran (left) and Tech. Sgt. Tony 'T.J.' Hubbert, both with the 15th Maintenance Squadron, pick up trash as part of last Friday's 'Polish the Pearl of the Pacific' base-wide clean-up effort. Hundreds of Team Hickam members participated in the annual event, which serves as a yearly reminder for each of us to keep Hickam clean on a daily basis.

Chun takes charge of Friends of Hickam

By Staff Sgt. Erin Smith
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 100 people were in attendance at the Honorary Commanders Assumption of Command Ceremony, April 29 at the Officers Club Lanai.

During this symbolic ceremony, which was designed to mirror a change of command ceremony, 45 Friends of Hickam members were appointed Honorary Commanders of the 15th Airlift Wing, groups, squadrons and partner units.

Col. John J. Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, gave opening



Photo by Vanessa Perez

Col. JJ Torres (left), 15th Airlift Wing commander, poses with Stewart Chun, newly installed Friends of Hickam president.

remarks and explained that the military change of command ceremony is a time-honored military tradition that can be traced in history for hundreds of years.

He also explained that the guidons

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ACTION LINE

Traffic enforcement

Comment: I was pulled over for speeding last month between 1:30 and 2 p.m. on Bouquet. One of the officers informed me that I was going over 15. I questioned him since I was fairly certain Bouquet was 25 as is Signor. The officer's reply began, "I'm not finished, yet..." He went on to explain how it is 15 until you get to the big circle in front of the PACAF building. He didn't give me a ticket, and I didn't think to get his name. On my way back home, I checked the signs. There are clearly signs marked 25 on both Signor and Bouquet until you get to the little circle which leads to Beard, as well as others. I was very polite, but now I'm rather angry. I was pulled over and delayed for something I didn't do. I wasn't speeding. The officers had the wrong speed limit in their minds and even though I questioned them, they weren't willing to even consider it. I've never been pulled over on this base. I've never had any trouble with the police. They have been helpful in dealing with some issues in my neighborhood. I appreciate what they do, but this is inexcusable. Training must be lacking.

Response: While our Security Forces members are properly trained when conducting Law Enforcement duties, they occasionally make a mistake. Unfortunately, in this case an error in judgment was made and I apologize for the inconveniences you may have experienced due to the delay. The speed limit on Bouquet Blvd is 25mph unless otherwise posted. Any time individuals are pulled over for possible violations, there is a specific process Security Forces members must execute prior to determining if a citation is warranted, and this process may cause delays. This is not only for the safety of the officers, but for the other personnel involved in the incident, as well. Again, please accept my apologies, and should you have additional questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call Security Forces Operations at 449-1006/1007. Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.

Diamond Tips

- Trousers** – Trousers are trim fitted, but slacks fit naturally over the hips with no bunching at the waist or bagging at the seat. Additionally, the
- Bottom front rests on the bottom shoe/boot with a slight break in the crease
 - Bottom back is 7/8 inch lower than the front
 - Silver belt tip extends beyond the buckle, facing a man's left or a woman's right, with no fabric showing between the buckle and belt tip.

Questions? Contact your First Sergeant



Got Good News?

Why not share it? Email your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:
hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil



Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

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Kukini: Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

Contributions of America's Airmen are recognized and appreciated

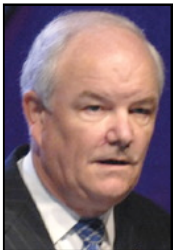
Airmen,

On Monday, April 21, the Secretary of Defense delivered an address at Maxwell AFB to the students of our Air War College and Air Command and Staff College. Initial press coverage of his remarks misrepresented the tone and content of his address. Whereas some press reports characterized Secretary Gates as making a singular critique about one Service's commitment to the Global War on Terror, his remarks were instead focused on the need for innovative thinking from all the Services.

As Secretary Gates himself explained: "... I think if you read the text of the speech, you'll see that it's not a dig at the Air Force at all. In fact, a significant part of the speech was full of praise at what the Air Force had done in the Middle East and Iraq and Afghanistan and the whole theater."

Secretary Gates challenged his entire Department and the leaders of every Service "to think out of the box" in continuous pursuit of better ways to deliver what is needed for the joint force in harm's way. The Air Force is well suited for that innovative pursuit. Every Airman should take Secretary Gates' comments to heart and strive to find more and better ways for the Air Force to contribute to the War on Terror.

It is important for all Airmen to know Secretary Gates applauded Airmen for their significant contributions to the Long War, just as he has praised



Michael W. Wynne

America's Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines. It is also important for Airmen to know Air Force contributions are making a difference, and that Airmen continue to do everything possible to support the Secretary of Defense's priorities. He has asked all Services to accelerate transformational initiatives like those in the Quadrennial Defense Review, and the Air Force is doing just that.

In short, Airmen are "all in" to fight today's war on global terrorism. From strategy to tactics, the Air Force has leaned far forward to deliver instruments of national power in a rapidly changing world. Every able-bodied Airman — Regular, Guard, and Reserve — is fully deployable. Indeed, Airmen have filled more than 524,000 deployments since the war began. Today, 24,000 Airmen are delivering a full spectrum of air, space, and cyber power to the Joint Force Commanders conducting operations in USCENTCOM, every hour of every day.

Air Force engagement in CENTCOM's AOR is only the tip of the iceberg. About 200,000-plus Airmen are in direct support of Combatant Commanders around the clock and around the globe to provide all with crit-

ical air, space, and cyber capabilities. Airmen are in the most dangerous places on the planet tonight to protect America. Airmen have been vital to the success of the Joint team in this critical Global War on Terror, while at the same time providing the global strength and deterrence that keep our enemies at bay and our friends assured.

The Air Force was born of an innovative spirit and a willingness to question the status quo. Airmen are applying that spirit daily to address America's challenges. In sum, our Air Force is "in the fight" to win, and is deterring any aggressor from doing us harm while we succeed in the Global War on Terror.

We are proud of the hard work that you — America's Airmen — undertake every day. Secretary Gates has challenged us to continue to honor our heritage of innovation. The Airmen of the United States Air Force will succeed in meeting his charge.

Gen. T. Michael Moseley

Gen. T. Michael Moseley
Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

Michael W. Wynne

Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Celebrate May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Capt. Heather E. Ovalle
15th Airlift Wing
Equal Opportunity director

The month of May is Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month — a celebration of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and their contributions to the United States. The theme for the 2008 Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage celebration is "Leadership, Diversity, Harmony — Gateway to Success."

This month is significant in that Japanese immigrants first arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843. Additionally, May 10, 1869 is the date when the eastern part of the United States was first connected to the west — the day the transcontinental railroad was completed by thousands of immigrant Chinese laborers.

The Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage celebration initially began when House Resolution 540, sponsored by Representatives Frank Horton (R-NY) and Norman Y. Mineta (D-CA), called for President Jimmy Carter to designate the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week.

The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Spark Matsunaga (D-HI) introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both bills passed. As a result, on October 5, 1978, President Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the first ten days of May as Asian Pacific American Week in 1979.

In 1992, President George Bush signed legislation declaring May as the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The name of the observance was slightly modified as the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

In April 2003, President George W. Bush made the following proclamation in honor of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:

"America is strengthened by the rich cultural diversity of our people, and we are blessed to be a nation that welcomes individuals of all races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. The values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific-American community — love of family, entrepreneurship, excellence in education, and community service — have strengthened us as a nation. During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the contributions of these talented and hard-working citizens and recognize their rich legacy of ingenuity, perseverance and achievement.

Many Asian/Pacific immigrants came to

America to discover the promise of our nation and to realize their dreams. Their contributions were critical in establishing a robust economy. Asian/Pacific Americans also worked tirelessly to build our national railroad infrastructure, paving the way for our western expansion and growth as a world leader.

Generations of Asian/Pacific Americans have proudly served our nation with honor and courage in wars and conflicts, including

“ Since the earliest days of America, people from all cultures have traveled to our nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity and justice. ”

most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Today, as in the past, their dedication and service to advancing peace in a troubled world upholds the values that make our country strong.

Asian/Pacific Americans are also helping to shape America's future. As entrepreneurs, artists, educators, public servants, scientists, and explorers, they challenge the minds of our next generation, expand commerce and innovation, probe the frontiers of space and search for cures for the world's diseases.

Our children are also inspired by the contributions and sacrifices of dedicated individuals such as inventor An Wang, experimental physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, astronauts Ellison Onizuka and Kalpana Chawla, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Since the earliest days of America, people from all cultures have traveled to our nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and justice. As an integral part of our society, Americans of Asian and Pacific heritage share in the pursuit of this American Dream. I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture, and I encourage every citizen to recognize the role of Asian/Pacific Americans in building and sustaining our nation."

This month, Hickam's Asian American/Pacific Island Heritage Month volunteer observance committee invites

Team Hickam members to join in the following observance activities:

Art and essay competition
— Continues through Tuesday, May 13
Geared to the four surrounding Hickam-partnered DOE elementary schools (Mokulele, Hickam, Nimitz and Waimalu), this art and essay competition offers cash prizes for first, second and third place in both categories. The work of competition winners will be highlighted in the Hickam Kukini at the end of the month. Details of the competition will be distributed within the respective schools.

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Luncheon
— Thursday, May 22, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Officer's Club Lanai
Col. J.J. Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander, will honor veterans of the 100th / 442nd Combat Teams, whose sacrifice and bravery earned them the distinction of being members of the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the U.S. military. The 442nd RCT participated in seven major campaigns in Italy and France, received seven Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, suffered 9,486 casualties and was awarded 18,143 individual decorations, according to the Selective Service System.

Five hundred seats are available to this event, which will feature an Asian/Pacific buffet menu. Team Hickam members are invited to attend. Sign up details will be distributed via E-mail. Cost is \$15 per head and O' Club cards are welcome.

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Golf Tournament Fundraiser
— Thursday, May 29, Mamala Bay
Tournament format will be a four-man scramble, shotgun start featuring a variety of prizes, and an appearance by celebrity guest Donny Hopoi, a 6th grader at Hickam-partnered Waimalu Elementary School who is the U.S. Kids Golf World Champion in the 10-year-old division.

This event is limited to 172 slots, which will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until May 16 or as soon as all slots are filled. Registration details will be distributed via e-mail.

For more information about Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month activities or events, call Joel Kongaika at 228-5370 or the Equal Opportunity office at 449-1701.

Colonel Torres, Isle leaders bid fond farewell to S. Korean consul general

By Jackie Hites
15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu held a farewell reception with local community and senior military leaders at the Waikiki Resort Hotel on April 26.

Col. JJ Torres, 15th Airlift wing commander, praised Consul General Dae-Hyun Kang and said he looked forward to strong ties with his successor.

“During the past two years the 15th Airlift Wing has supported many events with the Consul General of the Republic of Korea, building the foundation for enduring strong friendships that will carry on with the newly appointed consul general,” he said.

Consul General Kang thanked Oahu’s military and community leaders for enhancing bilateral relationships between the Republic of Korea and the United States, as well as the state of Hawaii.

To recognize Consul General Kang’s friendship with the 15th Airlift Wing during this period, Colonel Torres, along with his wife Irene, presented him the 15th Airlift Wing commander’s coin for excellence.

Others attending the evening farewell event included Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann; Gene Christy, United States Pacific Command Foreign Policy advisor; Lt. Gen. John Goodman, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific commander; Maj. Gen. Vern T. Miyagi, United States Pacific Command

Mobilization assistant to the commander; Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, Adjutant General, State of Hawaii Department of Defense; and Rear Adm. Donna Crisp, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command commander.

Col. JJ Torres (left), 15th Airlift Wing commander, bids farewell to Dae-Hyun Kang, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Hawaii, during a reception with local community and senior military leaders held last Saturday at the Waikiki Resort Hotel.

Photo by Jackie Hites



Crime Scene

Theft of unsecured government property

An active-duty E-5 Air Force member assigned to Hickam reported theft of government property at Bldg. 1843/Smith Hall. The case is currently under investigation.

Theft of unsecured personal property

An active-duty E-3 Air Force member assigned to Hickam

reported theft of government property at Bldg. 1120/Fitness Center. The case is currently under investigation.

Shoe Leather Express/Speeding

An active-duty E-8 US Air Force assigned to Hickam was cited for driving 14 mph over the speed limit. The individual will have his/her driving privileges revoked for 14 days.

Citation total for the week

- 12 Civilian traffic citations
- 22 Moving traffic citations
- 21 Non-moving traffic citations
- 1 Abandoned vehicle notice.



Airmen can request Afghan, Iraq campaign medal stars

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Officials from the office of the under secretary of defense have recently provided guidance on the wear of campaign stars on both Afghanistan and Iraq campaign medals.

The campaign stars recognize servicemembers for participating in designated campaign phases within the areas of responsibility for both awards.

Campaign stars for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal shall be worn on the campaign ribbon for one or more days of participation in either the Liberation of Afghanistan from Sept. 11 to Nov. 30, 2001; Consolidation I from Dec. 1, 2001, to Sept. 30, 2006; and

Consolidation II from Oct. 1, 2006 until a date to be determined.

Campaign stars for the Iraq Campaign Medal shall be worn for one or more days of participation in either the Liberation of Iraq from March 19 to May 1, 2003; the Transition of Iraq from May 2, 2003, to June 28, 2004; Iraqi Governance from June 29, 2004, to Dec. 15, 2005; and National Resolution from Dec. 16, 2005, until a date to be determined.

Individuals qualify for the stars upon service in the AOE for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days, and must provide official source documentation to confirm their participation in the AOE. Approved dec-

orations, performance reports or travel vouchers can be used as official documentation.

If an individual’s initial inclusive period of deployment overlaps one or more of the approved campaign phases, the Airman will be entitled to the appropriate number of campaign stars.

Active-duty Airmen, Guard, Reserve and veterans who have qualified for either of these

awards can report to their military personnel element career enhancement section and have their campaign entitlements updated to their records. Individuals with questions should address them to their local MPEs.

More information can be found at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or by calling the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.

VA announces plan to call combat veterans with info on care, benefits

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Representatives of the Department of Veterans Affairs began contacting nearly 570,000 recent combat veterans this month to ensure they know about VA’s medical services and other benefits. “We will reach out and touch every veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

to let them know we are here for them,” said Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. James B. Peake, a retired lieutenant general who served as Army surgeon general. “VA is committed to getting these veterans the help they need and deserve.” A contractor-operated “Combat Veteran Call Center” will telephone two distinct

populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said. In the first phase, calls will go to an estimated 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA officials will offer to appoint a care manager to work with them if they don’t have one already. Care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and

know about their VA benefits. For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans have special access to VA health care. The department screens combat veterans for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. VA personnel have been deployed to the military’s major medical centers to assist wounded service

members and their families during the transition to civilian lives. The new call center’s second phase will target 550,000 Afghanistan and Iraq veterans who have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for services. Once contacted, veterans will be informed about VA’s benefits and services. The initial

calls will be made by a private contractor, EDS, which specializes in technology services to improve business. If needed, VA employees will make follow-up calls, officials said. “We will leave no stone unturned to reach these veterans,” said Dr. Edward Huycke, chief of the Veterans Affairs-Defense Department coordination office.

Leaders get to know home child caregivers



Photo by Ed Foster

Col. Mike McDaniels (center), 15th Mission Support Group acting commander — flanked by Lt. Col. Scott Frickenstein (left, with Beth Hodge, Family Member Programs Flight chief), 15th Services Squadron commander, and Chief Master Sgt. John McNulty — toured two family child care-approved homes on Monday to see for himself the level of care some of Hickam’s keiki receive on a daily basis. “This is not about babysitting,” he said. “This is an organized, accredited, developmental child-care program on par with our Child Development Centers. This visit proved to all of us that our children are in capable hands.”

FRIENDS, From A1

are the colors for the 15th Airlift Wing, Groups, Squadrons and Partner units and are accepted in symbol of command in our modern military. The person in possession of these colors is the recognized commander. “During a change of command ceremony when the outgoing commander hands the guidon to the incoming commander ... in those few short seconds, power is transferred from one leader to the other

and the unit members immediately recognize the incoming commander as their leader,” he said. “It’s a powerful ceremony.” Friends of Hickam board members are assigned to the wing leadership and general membership participants are assigned to squadron commanders and tenant commanders. The group or squadron adopts the honorary commander as its own, including that person in

unit activities, official functions, briefings and social events. This provides participants with a better understanding of the workings of the squadron as an integral part of the wing, Hickam and the Air Force as a whole.

BASING, From A1

ure is not an option in either endeavor.” Taking the stage after Torres, Capt. Taylor Skardon, Pearl Harbor Naval Station commander, put the joint-basing effort into perspective by recalling the inter-service rivalries surrounding the creation of a separate Air Force in 1947. He discussed the actions of two officers as an example of how military members can rise above service rivalries to do what is best for the people they serve. “In 1947, the Navy fought (President) Truman when he wanted to integrate separate commands under the Department of Defense (the Department of the Navy had been cabinet level at that time),” he said. “Adm. Forrest Sherman and Gen. Lauris Norstad had to overcome their parochial issues and think about the security of the nation.

“Today, more than 60 years later, we’re in the same boat. This is a very important day for our base, our partners and our nation. If we don’t do joint basing right, our nation will suffer.”

Following the broad-strokes comments of their respective commanders, Ryan Ide, Navy Region Hawaii N5, and Ben Borth, 15th Mission Support Group deputy commander, got

into specifics with the help of a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Ide led off, noting that members of both bases needed to arrive at a “common understanding of where we are and where we need to be.” From there, he discussed “big-picture milestones” and, referring to slides on screen, mapped out target working group schedules and specific due dates. Mr. Ide also encouraged work group members to refer to the Commander, Naval Installation Command (CNIC) portal, which maintains a SharePoint Web site with all necessary information relating to Pearl Harbor-Hickam joint basing. As part his presentation, Mr. Borth stressed that these work groups should give thought to contingency planning with respect to their recommendations.

“We cannot take it as an assumption that a variance (from published OSD guidelines) is going to be approved,” he said. “Consider how you can submit a variance while at the same time submitting plans for a similar outcome without a variance.” In his conclusion — which was punctuated by a cleverly

“Photoshopped” image of a C-17 Globemaster landing on a carrier — Mr. Borth echoed Mr. Ide’s comments on the importance of the CNIC portal, adding that service members should notify tech support personnel if they are unable to log on to the site. Following Mr. Borth’s presentation, Mr. Bailey opened a brief question-and-answer session, during which attendees sought clarification on specific issues ranging from shipyard workers, post-joint base civilian cuts and a smattering of rumors. On the latter subject, Mr. Borth stressed the importance of communication. “We’d be fooling ourselves if we didn’t recognize the joint basing process is causing anxiety,” he said, adding, “If you hear anything that doesn’t sound right, ask someone. Use us to dispel rumors — rumors can only poison the water.” Near the end of the meeting, Mr. Bailey noted that the most common joint-basing question on everyone’s mind is “what’s going to happen to me?” His response put the meeting’s agenda into perspective. “The people who will decide the answer to that question are

Air Force training records go digital

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — Air Force officials are fielding two systems currently available through the Air Force Portal that make it easier to keep on-the-job training records up-to-date, saving time and money.

Each Airman’s Air Force Specialty Code will determine if their records will be maintained in one of these two systems, called Training Business Area or Air Force Training Record.

Air Force officials said the systems will eliminate the need for supervisors to transcribe documentation from one career field education and training

plan to another once they have been updated. The systems will also provide near instantaneous access to new CFETPs once they have been released from the Air Force career field managers.

These systems move training records management into the electronic age, said Mr. Todd Haller, Air Combat Command communications and information systems training manager. It allows personnel to focus on the fight versus documentation.

Both TBA and AFTR require that training managers input each Airman’s AF Form 623

on-the-job training record information into the system to get started. Once the information has been put into the system, it can be accessed by Airmen and their trainers from any Internet-capable computer.

The best advantage of the new system is its accessibility, said TBA user Tech. Sgt. Jose O. Valdez, ACC communications and information inspector. “You can simply mark a trainee as deployed and the deployed work center can access their training record and sign off tasks with ease.” *(By David Hopper, Air Combat Command PublicAffairs)*

SECAF discusses AF energy initiatives

GENEVA (AFPN) — Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne championed Air Force alternative energy initiatives at the Third Aviation and Environment conference last week.

Speaking on a panel on carbon emissions with senior leaders in the aviation industry, Secretary Wynne described the problems faced by the Air Force in regard to aviation fuel.

“Today the petroleum market is controlled by a small handful

of producers. This leads to higher costs and less price stability,” he said.

Part of the Air Force’s response, he said, has been to diversify its supplier base for energy needs. This includes seeking out alternative sources of aviation fuel and encouraging new suppliers to enter the market.

“Our goal is not to become a producer of synthetic fuels.” Secretary Wynne said. “It is to provide a stable market for fuel that will entice industry to develop the means to produce it for us.”

He highlighted that the

B-52 Stratofortress long-range bomber was certified to fly on a synthetic fuel blend as of August 2007.

He also noted that certification to fly the B-1 Lancer and C-17 Globemaster III on synthetic fuel blends is currently underway.

Finally, the secretary pointed out that the Air Force has not yet found a single perfect solution.

“The search for new fuel sources must be treated holistically,” he said. “We must find the right mix of fuels that provides us with greater energy independence and meets our need to lower our carbon footprint.”

